

[View this email in your browser](#)



# The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

22 December 2022

The Library will be **closed from Saturday 24 December 2022 through Monday 2 January 2023** for our annual holiday break.

We **reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023**, resuming our regular operating hours:

**Tue–Wed: 10h–21h**  
**Thu–Fri–Sat: 10h–19h**  
**Sun: 13h–19h**  
**Mon: Closed**

If you are traveling during the break and need extended borrowing time on your checked-out items, please contact Member Services: [info@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:info@americanlibraryinparis.org)

## A Message from the Director

Dear Library friend,

As 2022 draws to a close, we are reflecting on the Library's past—both the busy fall and the arc of our history—and our future. I'm often struck by what one might call the organizational DNA of the American Library, the constancy of the spirit of the place. Our location has changed over the years, our collections refreshed, and programming expanded, but still, certain elements remain inviolable: the Library has always been shaped by its supporters and partners. It has always been a nexus for both local and international communities. And it has always strived to promote cross-cultural understanding. This season, we witnessed those values in action in new and old ways. Whether "On the Road" or at home in

Paris, we are grateful for our partners, our supporters, and our friends who contribute to this century-old institution and are helping to build its future.

Here's a look at some of the highlights from the fall and some incredibly exciting developments on the horizon.

### Six Months “On the Road”



We imagined our On the Road outreach program as a way to bring the American Library to French communities who hadn't yet discovered us. We wanted to spark conversations with new interlocutors outside our walls. The public and personal exchanges over seven tour stops have been wide-ranging and meaningful.

Children met our librarians for bilingual Story Hour, and we hosted talks on disinformation, women in art, and the climate emergency with leading journalists and thinkers. At our traveling exhibit about the Library's history, we met numerous French people who worked or studied in the US and were delighted to discover an American institution much closer to home. Next up this spring, we'll make additional stops in Évry-Courcouronnes, Blérancourt, Sarcelles, and more. We're grateful to On the Road's sponsor, the U.S. Embassy, France; the program's *parrain*, Rachid Santaki; and the Île-de-France and Hauts-de-France regions.

### Every Hour is Story Hour

For many of our youngest members, Story Hour remains the most important hour of the week. Our annual Halloween Extravaganza is one way we bring the whimsy and magic of that hour to the whole Library community—children and caregivers alike. We welcomed four hundred costumed guests this October, our first fully in-person Halloween Extravaganza in two years. The Children's and



Teens' Services department organized a month of themed activities that culminated in the full-day event.

### Rapacious Readers

American Library in Paris readers continued to demonstrate their appetite for print materials this fall, checking out over 45,000 items since September. The top circulating titles in the adult collection were *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *The Midnight Library*, *The Paris Library*, *Beautiful World*, *Where Are You?*, and *Hamnet*. I'll note that those two library-related titles made the top of the list in 2021 as well!

Graphic novels were high on the list for our young readers, as were popular series such as the Baby-sitters Club, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and *The Princess in Black*.

### Dynamic Dialogues



Thanks to sponsor GROW @ Annenberg, the Library's *Evenings with an Author* continued in a hybrid format. Viewers on Zoom worldwide joined local attendees seated in the Florence Gould Reading Room. Recordings of the conversations are available on the Library's [YouTube channel](#), so you can catch up on our programming over the holidays.

You won't want to miss Ann Weber and Tess Lewis on [translation](#), Jeff Deutsch on the [power of book browsing](#), Visiting Fellow\* Matthieu Aikins and Luke Mogelson on [war reporting](#), Peter Sokolowki's [romp through the English language](#), and the formidable Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, Grace Ly on the [mystique and stereotype of the French woman](#), among many others.

Our partnerships enable us to broaden our conversations. Our *Entre Nous* series with Columbia Global Centers and the Institute for Ideas & Imagination allowed us to present such speakers as Lynnette Widder, João Pina, and Mila Turajlić, who shared how they use archives to enrich their writing. We partnered with Festival America to bring you Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and decorated author Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. Other programming is in-person-only by design, such as our Critical Conversations series on the liberation of being offline, with Analog Sea's Jonathan Simons.

We also celebrated the centennial of a fellow Parisian library, Bibliothèque Fessart, in Belleville, and explored some of our shared historical connections. Assistant Director Abigail Altman spoke about some of the intrepid women who helped bring American library practices to France.

\* Thanks to The de Groot Foundation for generously sponsoring the Visiting Fellowship.

### **A Decade of the American Library in Paris Book Award**

After two years of pandemic restrictions, we welcomed a full house of our most stalwart supporters to the George C. Marshall Center to celebrate Graham Robb, the winner of the 2022 Book Award for *France: An Adventure History*. This important moment marked ten years of our literary prize, which honors outstanding works in English about France or the French.



The 2022 cycle was the first year led by the prize's new administrator, journalist Rachel Donadio. An independent jury selected Robb's entertaining and trenchant exploration of French history from a shortlist of five exceptional titles. Thank you to the Florence Gould Foundation, whose generous support will allow the award to continue for years to come.

### **A Historic Gift from the American Center for Art & Culture**

The year is ending with a significant announcement. The American Center for Art & Culture (formerly the Mona Bismarck American Center) has pledged a [historic gift](#) to the American Library in Paris that will bring broad cultural benefits to the community.\* And a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation will enable a preview of new initiatives. The Library's Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to the leadership of the American Center for their confidence and generosity.

Stay tuned for even more exciting things in 2023 and beyond. As always, I welcome your feedback about the Library, our programs, collections, and services. Feel free to write to me directly at [chapuis@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:chapuis@americanlibraryinparis.org).

On behalf of the entire Library team, I wish you much joy and many books this holiday season!

Yours sincerely,  
Audrey Chapuis

Photo credits from top to bottom: The On the Road team in Lille, © American Library in Paris; Halloween Story Hour, © Julien LB Photography Paris; Viet Thanh Nguyen and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah at the Library, © American Library in Paris; Book Award team with the 2022 winner, Graham Robb, © Krystal Kenney

\* The gift will be realized after regulatory processes and is notably contingent on the approval of the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

---

The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

**[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)**

The logo for The American Library in Paris, featuring the text "The American Library in Paris" in white on a dark red square background.

---

The American Library in Paris  
10 rue du Général Camou  
Paris, France 75007  
FR

---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).